



The Values Action Team

Congressman Joe Pitts, Chairman

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Marriage Is Good for Kids

Mr. Speaker,

Between 1970 and the year 2000, the number of children living in single-parent homes jumped from 8.2 million to 19.2 million.

That's almost nearly a 150 percent increase!

And the effect of that change had a devastating effect.

Children living with a single mother are SIX TIMES MORE LIKELY to live in poverty than children living in an intact family.

The median income of a single mother with kids is about 21 thousand dollars.

For a married couple with kids it's about 63 thousand dollars.

Almost a third of single parent families with kids live in poverty.

Only SIX percent of families headed by married couples live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that marriage is good for kids.

But that's saying the cup is half full, when it's really half empty.

NOT BEING MARRIED is DEVASTATING to children.

Our welfare laws STILL penalize poor couples from getting married.

Congress needs to change this, and change it for good.